

III. REMARKS

In the Office Action claims 1-3 and 6-9, and also claims 10 and 12-20 and 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Goetz (US 5,928,330) for reasons set forth in the Action. Claims 2 and 4-5, and also claims 11 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Goetz for reasons set forth in the Action. Claim 11 was rejected also under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for reasons set forth in the Action. Claim 25 was rejected also under 35 U.S.C. 101 for reasons set forth in the Action.

In order to overcome the foregoing grounds of rejection, the rejected claims 1-26 have been replaced with a new set of claims 27 -54. The new claims recite limitations which are believed to distinguish the present invention from the teachings of the cited art. In addition, the language of the original claim 11 which was rejected for indefiniteness does not appear in the new set of claims, thereby to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. Also, the new claims omit the language of original claim 25 which was the source of rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101, thereby to overcome this ground of rejection.


In the Information Disclosure Statement filed by Applicant on January 8, 2001, and considered by the Examiner on December 1, 2003, Applicant made an error on the PTO Form-1449. The Patent Abstract of Japan document No. JP 06205384 was incorrectly identified on the PTO Form-1449 as JP 06205385. However, the first page of the IDS identified the correct document, and the correct document was submitted with the IDS. Only the PTO Form-1449 has the wrong number.

Applicant encloses a correct PTO Form-1449, with the correct document number, and requests that the Examiner initial and make this document of record.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check in the amount of \$986.00 is enclosed for a three month extension of time and additional claim fees. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

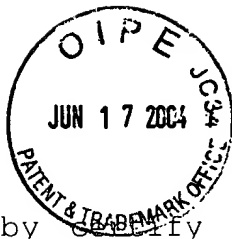
Respectfully submitted,



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15 June 2004
Date

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 6/15/04

Signature: *Ramona B. Benhua*
Person Making Deposit

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